

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A line card for a telecommunications system comprising:  
a multiple mode circuit capable of supporting symmetric and asymmetric telecommunication services.
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2. The line card as recited in claim 1 wherein the multiple mode circuit comprises:  
a xDSL interface for supporting symmetric and asymmetric xDSL services.
3. The line card as recited in claim 2 wherein the xDSL interface is capable of supporting any one of asymmetric digital subscriber line service, asymmetric digital subscriber line lite service, very high speed digital subscriber line service, symmetric digital subscriber line service, high bit rate digital subscriber line service, single pair symmetric digital subscriber line service, HDSL2 and SHDSL.
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4. The line card as recited in claim 1 wherein the multiple mode circuit comprises:  
a POTS interface for supporting POTS service.
5. The line card as recited in claim 4 wherein the multiple mode circuit substantially concomitantly supports POTS service and asymmetric digital subscriber line services.
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6. The line card as recited in claim 5 wherein the xDSL interface is capable of supporting any one of asymmetric digital subscriber line service, asymmetric digital subscriber line lite service and very high speed digital subscriber line service.
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7. The line card as recited in claim 1 wherein the multiple mode circuit comprises:  
an automatic mode circuit which substantially automatically determines which symmetric and asymmetric services should be supported.
8. The line card as recited in claim 7 wherein the automatic mod circuit comprises:  
a controller for receiving instructions regarding the services being supported and for controlling the multiple mode circuit based on the instructions.
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9. The line card as recited in claim 8 wherein the controller receives the instructions from external devices.
10. The line card as recited in claim 7 wherein the controller is capable of changing the services being supported during a communication session.

11. The line card as recited in claim 10 wherein the controller changes the services being supported during a communication session based on information received via a handshake signal.

12. The line card as recited in claim 7 wherein the automatic mode circuit comprises a controller for monitoring the multiple mode circuit, for determining which one of the services should be supported based on operation of the multiple mode circuit, and for instructing the multiple mode circuit to support the one of the services.

13. A line card for a telecommunications system comprising:  
a multiple mode circuit capable of supporting POTS service, symmetric digital subscriber line services and asymmetric digital subscriber line services.

14. The line card as recited in claim 13 wherein the multiple mode circuit is capable of supporting the POTS service substantially concomitant with at least one of the digital subscriber line services.

15. The line card as recited in claim 14 wherein the at least one of the digital subscriber line services is any one of asymmetric digital subscriber line service, asymmetric digital subscriber line lite service and very high speed digital subscriber line service.

16. The line card as recited in claim 13 wherein the multiple mode circuit is capable of supporting symmetric digital subscriber line services.

17. The line card as recited in claim 16 wherein the symmetric digital subscriber line services is any one of high bit rate digital subscriber line service and single pair symmetric digital subscriber line service.

18. A method for supporting POTS and asymmetric digital subscriber line services and symmetric digital subscriber line services on a line card comprising the steps of:

selecting whether to support the POTS and asymmetric digital subscriber line services or whether to support the digital subscriber line services;

receiving a communication signal at the line card;

if POTS and asymmetric digital subscriber line services are being supported, separate POTS signals and asymmetric digital subscriber line signals in the communication signal;

process the POTS and asymmetric digital subscriber line signals;

if symmetric and asymmetric digital subscriber line services are being supported, separate digital subscriber line signals in the communication signal; and process the digital subscriber line signals.

19. The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the step of selecting whether to support comprises the step of:

receiving instructions from an external device regarding which of the POTS and asymmetric digital subscriber line services or which of the symmetric or asymmetric digital subscriber line services to support.

20. The method as recited in claim 19 wherein the step of receiving instructions comprises the step of:

receiving the instructions in a handshake signal.

21. The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the step of receiving the instructions comprises the step of:

receiving the instructions in a handshake signal during a communication session.

22. The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the step of selecting whether to support comprises the steps of:

monitoring operation of the line card; and

selecting whether to support POTS and asymmetric digital subscriber line services or whether to support symmetric digital subscriber line services based on the operation of the line card.

23. The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the asymmetric digital subscriber line service comprises any one of asymmetric digital subscriber line service, asymmetric digital subscriber line lite service and very high speed digital subscriber line service.

24. The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the symmetric digital subscriber line services comprises any one of high bit rate digital subscriber line service and single pair symmetric digital subscriber line service.

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